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was to the fly to be thus fooled had never been made clear to him. In the case of this fungus, however, it would hardly be contended that the flies had been deceived for the purposes of fertilization, nor could he understand why "in-and-in breeding," if bad for phænogams, should not be injurious to a fungus as well.

OCTOBER 10.

Mr. VAUX, Vice-President, in the chair.

Thirty-two members present.

Destructive Coleoptera.—Dr. LE CONTE mentioned that a small Coleopterous insect had recently proved quite destructive to carpets in houses in Albany and neighboring towns in New York. Mr. J. A. Lintner had sent him some specimens of the larvæ a few weeks ago, which proved to belong to some species of Dermestidæ, of unfamiliar form. Recently Mr. Lintner succeeded in rearing one of the larvæ, and sent the imago for examination. It was immediately recognized as *Anthrenus scrophulariæ*, a very common European species, not before reported as occurring in the United States. Herbst, Käfer, vii. 328, mentions that the larvæ destroy natural history collections, clothes, furs, leather, and edibles (Esswaaren).

Remarks on the Structure of Precious Opal.—Prof. LEIDY stated that Signor A. G. Arevalo, proprietor of one of the opal mines in Queretaro, Mexico, had recently called upon him, and exhibited a large collection of cut opals of various kinds, comprising the milk-white opal with a rich harlequin display of colors, the less valued transparent glassy variety with rich hues, and the red fire opal of different shades, also displaying the play of colors of the spectrum. From among them he had selected several which he exhibited to the Academy as illustrating in an unusually distinct manner the structure of the precious opal.

One of the specimens is white opal, emitting on one side from the free surface a brilliant display of colors. These are reflected from facets ranging from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 mm. in breadth, and of irregular

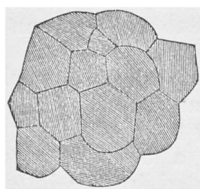


Fig. 1.

polyhedral form, as represented in figure 1. The facets are distinctly separated by fissures, which, in the polishing of the stone, have become more or less filled with dirt, and they appear to form the surface of a mosaic pavement laid on a basis of amorphous opal, of which the other side of the specimen consists. The facets are distinctly striate; the striæ being parallel on the same facet, but changing in direction on the different ones, though pursuing the same general course over comparatively large areas, as represented in the same